Issue No. 31

In The News

Province to Match Funding for Raise-a-Reader Campaign

New Process to Ensure Best Use of Surplus Schools

Auto Theft Prevention Film Delivered to B.C. Schools

Fruit and Veggie Program Expands to 164 Schools

More Protection for Students with Severe Allergies

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Links

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Message from Minister Shirley Bond

Honourable Shirley Bond, Minister of Education

More than one million adult British Columbians do not have the skills needed for basic tasks like filling out a job application or reading a newspaper. That's why I'm looking forward to introducing Stanley Cup winning NHL coach Jacques Demers, who is speaking in Vancouver, September 27, Prince George, September 29, and Nanaimo, September 30.

Demers went public with the fact that he couldn't read and write because he wanted other people with low literacy skills to see that they can succeed, and that it's never too late to learn to read. I hope many British Columbians come to hear Demers' powerful message. Admission fees, which are by donation, will go to the Raise-a-Reader program. For event details, follow this link.

Regardless of whether or not you're able to attend one of the Demers events, please plan to support the Raise-a-Reader program. On October 3, CanWest's Raise-a-Reader Day, look for volunteers selling newspapers to raise money for family literacy programs here in British Columbia.

I'm pleased to say that the provincial government will once again match your newspaper-purchase donations. This is the fourth straight year that we've done this; in fact, we've contributed over $1 million to date! Together, we can help people of all ages improve their literacy skills, and their lives. Read more.

More Students to Enjoy Fruits and Vegetables

The Province is expanding ActNow BC's School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program to include a total of 164 schools. Other ActNow BC initiatives include recently announced plans to accelerate the removal of junk food from school vending machines and introduce mandatory daily physical activity. Read more.

Minister Bond offers a healthy snack to students from Inman elementary, September 12, 2007.

HOT TOPIC

To protect students with life-threatening allergies, the Ministry of Education is requiring school districts to establish school-based anaphylaxis policies and practices that meet rigorous provincial standards. District responsibilities include identifying individuals at risk, storing and administering medication, and creating an allergy-aware school community.

This direction is outlined in the new Anaphylaxis Child Health and Safety Framework, the result of a Ministry of Education-led comprehensive consultation process with major stakeholders, including Anaphylaxis Canada, the Allergy/Asthma Information Association, the BCMA, health authorities, health officers, educators, trustees and parents.

The framework will direct districts as they develop school-based policies for managing anaphylaxis in schools. The ministry, in consultation with members of the committee, will develop additional guidelines in the areas of training, monitoring and reporting, all of which will help districts and individual schools implement and refine their policies and practices.

Boards of education are responsible for ensuring that every school in their district is taking action to protect students with life-threatening allergies. Boards will be required to report on their policy in their annual achievement contracts with the ministry.

Families of students who have severe allergies can now have more confidence that B.C. schools will be prepared to deal with an anaphylactic emergency. Read more.

Reading Corner

Robbie's dog Lucky runs onto the street. Robbie, running after him, is hit by a car. In a coma, Robbie cannot speak or move to let people know he can hear them. That's why his friends and family conclude they have failed to reach him. Robbie's dad feels Lucky could revive Robbie, but because no animals are allowed in the hospital, he must sneak the dog inside. The book is suitable for students in grades 2-3.

Cool!
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